

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

PRESENT: Shawn Costello, James Gage, David Hurley and Jesse Amsel

ABSENT: Walter Moody and Glenn Eberly

STAFF

PRESENT: Reanna Goodreau, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Costello called the Ellington Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

III. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Disposition of Funds when the Town Sells Land

Commissioner Gage stated that he spoke with the Finance Officer about the disposition of funds when the town sells land. He explained that currently the money goes into the general fund. However, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and Board of Finance (BOF) have the ability to transfer funds to a specific account for special purposes. The commission discussed the possibility of requested funds from certain land sales be transferred to the open space fund.

TABLED TO THE NOVEMBER 29, 2005 MEETING.

MOVED (HURLEY), SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA: DISCUSSION OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN RESPONSE TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S MEMOS.

2. Discussion of Board of Selectmen Response to the Conservation Commission's Memos

Commissioner Gage stated that he attended the BOS meeting on 9/19/05. He noted that the BOS did not discuss the round-about. The commissioners agreed that the BOS should acknowledge the memo sent by the commission regarding taking land for the round-about. Commissioner Hurley asked about the discontinuance of Porter Road and Commissioner Gage showed the commission a map of the area of discontinuance. He also stated that the town

would be granted a right-of-way over the discontinued road. Commissioner Gage also stated that the First Selectman discussed bonding for open space purchases, but no action was taken. Commissioner Gage explained that another parcel on Porter Road has become available for sale and that the BOS is looking to purchase it with open space funds. The commission felt that the BOS should solicit input from the commission when open space funds are used. Commissioner Gage did note that the Town had right of first refusal and this moved along very quickly.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Open Space Plan—Status

Reanna Goodreau handed-out the final draft of the open space plan. The commission discussed the title of the plan. Chairman Costello asked that the commissioners review the plan and have any comments prepared for the October 25, 2005 meeting.

MOVED (AMSEL), SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO CHANGE THE TITLE FROM OPEN SPACE PLAN TO PLAN OF CONSERVATION.

TABLED TO THE OCTOBER 25, 2005 MEETING.

2. Discussion of Fee In-Lieu of Open Space

Commissioner Gage explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to approve the "Approved List of Appraisers." The commission agreed that this item could now be taken off the agenda.

3. Discussion of Route 30 and Route 140

Chairman Costello requested this item be tabled.

TABLED TO THE NOVEMBER 29, 2005 MEETING.

4. Development of Deed Restrictions and Policies for Town-Owned Open Space and Properties

Commissioner Hurley requested that this item be tabled.

TABLED TO THE NOVEMBER 29, 2005 MEETING.

5. Discussion of Town-Owned Open Space Parcels:

- a. Pinney Street, APN 017-020-0000 & 017-021-0000 (Santini Subdivisions)
- b. Sandy Beach Road, APN 129-088-0103 & 129-088-0104 (Crystal Ridge Subdivision)
- c. Jonathan Drive, APN 014-010-0000 (Carriage Run Subdivision)

The commission agreed to change the heading of this item to "Evaluation of Town-Owned Properties." The commission requested that staff compile a list of town-owned properties and pertinent information.

TABLED TO THE OCTOBER 25, 2005 MEETING.

6. Development of Parcel Selection for Upcoming DEP Grant

Commissioner Hurley explained that a letter was sent to certain properties owners in order to inquire about their interest in selling land (outright or development rights) to the Town. Commissioner Hurley requested that staff compile a list and map the location of these properties.

TABLED TO THE OCTOBER 25, 2005 MEETING.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the August 30, 2005 Meeting Minutes

MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (AMSEL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 30, 2005 MEETING MINUTES.

2. Correspondence:
- a. Landmark, September 2005
 - b. The Habitat, Summer 2005

SO NOTED.

MOVED (HURLEY), SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA: REPORT OF PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION'S RESPONSE TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO IMPLEMENT A MORATORIUM.

3. Report of Planning & Zoning Commission's Response to the Conservation Commission's Recommendation to Implement a Moratorium.

Commissioner Gage explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission was not enthusiastic about the idea of implementing a moratorium, but they said that they would take it into consideration.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (HURLEY), SECONDED (AMSEL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Reanna Goodreau
Recording Secretary